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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE AUSTRALIAN SOCCER FEDERATION



It is with great pleasure that I welcome one of the world's greatest club Football teams - A.C. Milan to Australia. The Australian public will turn out in their thousands to see one of this country's greatest sporting challenges of recent times - A.C. Milan vs. Coca-Cola Socceroos. The two matches scheduled will prove most intriguing and should live long in the memories of all who are lucky enough to be present. Australian Soccer is riding on the crest of a wave of success at all levels and now that we have become Oceania Champions, the challenge against A.C. Milan will be a great benefit for the next stage of our World Cup campaign - the series against Canada on 31st July, 1993 in Canada and 15th August, 1993 in Sydney. In attempting to reach this major goal, the Australian Soccer Federation is greatly supported by a number of sponsors without whom we could not continue our quest. We would therefore like to publicly express our gratitude particularly to the Coca-Cola Company, the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation and the Australian Sports Commission. Other vital sponsors of the National team are SBS Television, Kingroo, Mitre Sports, Australian Airlines, Beiersdorf and Southern Pacific Hotels Corporation. One should also remember the Coca Cola Soccer League Clubs who nurture our National team members from week to week providing them with a major high profile competition in which they can not only improve their skills but also entertain large crowds of Soccer supporters on a weekly basis. Finally, I would like to express my appreciation to all the Coca Cola Socceroo Supporters that have come out in force for the many National team matches played recently proving to the few remaining knockers that Australian Soccer is not only just here to stay but will continue to grow from strength to strength.

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This is AC Milan's second tour of Australia and is the first visit by a top Italian Club side since Juventus in 1984.

AC Milan is owned by multi-millionaire media magnate and businessman Silvio Berlusconi. Berlusconi also owns the rugby team which Wallaby winger David Campese plays for.

AC Milan is coached by former Italian international Fabio Capello, whose attacking coaching style has been hailed as a breath of air since taking up his role 18 months ago.

The Italian First Division (Serie A) win which AC Milan plays is regarded as the toughest and most glamorous domestic competition in the world.

AC Milan's 56 game winning streak, compiled over a two year period, came to an end when they were finally defeated in April.

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A.C. MILAN



BRAVO, CAPELLO!

by Lou Gautier



There were plenty of cynics to be heard when Fabio Capello was appointed coach of Milan in the summer of 1991.

Many people felt that Capello had an impossible task; his managerial experience in Serie A was limited to the last five weeks of the 1986-87 season, yet here he was taking over again, with Milan now the most powerful club in Italy, maybe the most powerful in the world.

Silvio Berlusconi had appointed Capello to succeed Arrigo Sacchi, now Italian team manager. And Berlusconi was proved right.

Milan stormed to the championship, and Berlusconi was able to appear beside Capello and say, "Here stands the novice who supposedly would have to wait five or six years before gaining success."

Capello had the job of building on that success, and that too was thought impossible. Even though the club had spent big money on new players during the off-season, what could be better than going through a season undefeated as Milan had one in 1991/92? Capello knew the answer - to win the Champion's Cup, wiping out the memory of defeat by Marseille in 1991.

It is now, of course, history that Milan were again thwarted by the French champions, this time in the final in Munich on May 26, but the club did again win the Italian League and created a new run of unbeaten championship games - 56 before Parma ended the sequence.

Fabio Capello was born on June 18th, 1946, in Pieris, in the north-east of Italy. His late father played a prominent part in the boys development and when Fabio was only 12 the pair set off for Ferrara and a trial with Spal. On arrival they were welcomed by the man in charge, Paolo Mazza, who eventually guided Italy to the 1962 World Cup Finals. Mazza was impressed and assured Capello a future place.

He progressed further with semi-pro outfit Valdagno, and Spal obtained the option to sign him in spite of offers from Milan and Juventus.

He made his debut for Spal two months short of his 17th birthday in 1963 - just before Milan beat Benfica 2-1 at Wembley to win the Champions' Cup for the first time.

After four seasons with Spal, Capello joined a Roma team coached by the master of catenaccio, Helenio Herrera, and his first honour arrived in 1969 - the Italian Cup.

The following year was a turning point, when Capello was transferred to Juventus. He earned the first of three league titles in Turin, and in May 1972 entered the international scene in a 2-1 defeat in Belgium. He went on to represent the Azzurri 32 times, scoring eight goals.

Capello was a classic playmaker, with a keen eye for goal and the capacity to find his colleagues with precision passing.

In 1976 Capello moved to Milan in exchange for the uncompromising Romeo Benetti, his midfield partner of 24 internationals. Capello secured his fourth title in Milan, and a second Italian Cup medal, before retiring at 34, to join the coaching staff.

BERLUSCONI THE VISIONARY

Silvio Berlusconi is the world's best known sports club President - of that there is no doubt.

Love him or hate him, he leaves no-one indifferent.

The 56 year old media magnate became AC Milan's 21st President on March 24th, 1986.

In these seven years, Milan regained their aura as Italy's most influential club and a world favourite.

Berlusconi has transformed Milan into arguably the best - and certainly richest - soccer club in the world.

Under his presidency, Milan have won two European Champions' Cup, two inter-continental club titles (Toyota Cup), two European Super Cups, three Italian League titles and two Italian Super Cups.

Few can boast such a record anywhere in the world.

His sports empire is not restricted to soccer. He owns sports clubs in Milan, including Italy's champion rugby side, for whom Wallaby David Campese is the star.

But Berlusconi is looking beyond Italian soccer.

And his grand dream may soon be a reality.

The romantically popular European Champions' Cup is almost certain to be transformed into an international club league with the likes of Rangers, Manchester United, Marseille, Real Madrid, Benfica, Ajax, Bayern Munich and Milan taking part.

Pressure has been building up over the last four years towards the creation of some sort of European League - with Berlusconi very much at the forefront to reform.

He has made no secret of his belief that the future strength of the game is Europe lies with increasingly powerful international club competitions generating television and sponsorship income which could, in turn, subsidise the smaller clubs.



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SEBASTIANO ROSSI.

Goalkeeper, 28. Tall man who has this season gone a long way towards disproving the theory that the number one position is Milan's achilles heel. Gained confidence after two important penalty saves which helped his team extend their unbeaten league run. Worth \$6 million.



DEJAN SAVICEVIC.

Midfield, 27. Inspired Red Star Belgrade to the 1991 European Champions' Cup victory. Hails from Montenegro. Former Yugoslav international worth \$10 million.



ALDO SERENA.

Striker, 32. Much travelled player who has had stints with Torino, Juventus and Inter. Most experienced striker in the Milan squad. Former Italian international worth \$4 million.



MARCO SIMONE.

Striker, 25. Gifted goal scorer, netting four times in European Cup competition this season. Coveted by numerous Italian clubs who could provide him with regular first team soccer. Worth \$8 million.



MAURO TASSOTTI.

Defender, 33. Dependable right back, in his 13th season with the club. Became Italy's oldest international debutante when he played in a World Cup tie in Switzerland last September. Recently troubled by knee problems. Current Italian international worth \$7 million.



MARCO VAN BASTEN.

Striker, 28. Needs little introduction. European Footballer of the Year for the third time in 1992, the tall nimble Dutchman has just returned to soccer after ankle surgery kept him out for four months. Dutch international worth \$22 million.

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FILIPPO GALLI.
Defender, 30. Experienced defender who has been with Milan for seven seasons. It just returning after a 12 month absence through injury, but a more than useful stop-gap. Worth \$4 million.



ENZO GAMBARO.
Defender, 27. Experienced player, began career with Sampdoria has spent most of his two seasons on the substitute bench after joining Milan from Parma. Worth \$5 million.



RUUD GULLIT.
Midfield, 30. The dreadlocked Dutchman is one of the best-known figures in world soccer, his image boosted by his eloquence. Career marred by several knee operations which would have finished less determined men. Has scored a number of important goals despite fresh injury woes this season. Dutch international worth \$10 million.



STEFANO NAVA.
Defender, 24. Local man who has failed to win a regular place, spent last season at Parma, helping it to lift the Italian Cup. Worth \$6 million.



JEAN PIERRE PAPIN.
Striker, 29. Prolific goalscorer both at club level and for France, where he is their national team captain. 1991 European Player of the Year. Moved from Marseille to Milan in 1992 for a reported \$21 million, but has found it tough to cement his place in the starting line-up. French international worth \$21 million.



FRANKLIN RIJKAARD.
Midfield, 20. Part of Milan's golden Dutch trio and perhaps its most reliable player over the past five years. Next season will be his last for the club. Notorious for his sending off at the 1990 World Cup when he spat at German Rudi Voeller. Dutch international worth \$16 million.

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FERNANDO DE NAPOLI.
Midfield, 29. Joined Milan from Napoli two seasons ago. A fine player who helped Napoli win two league championships. Former Italian international worth \$7 million.



STEFANO ERANIO.
Midfield, 26. Industrious right-sided player who would walk into virtually any other team in the world, but often not guaranteed a place in Milan. Current Italian international worth \$9 million.



ALBERIGO EVANI.
Midfield, 30. Has spent his whole career at Milan, clocking up almost 300 league appearances. Left-footed player whose consistency has won him belated international recognition. Former Italian international worth \$4 million.



GIANLUIGI LENTINI.
Midfield, 24. Joined Milan for an estimated \$28 million last year, but is yet to fully justify the hype surrounding the move. Quick and strong, but question marks over his attitude and temperament remain. Current Italian international worth \$28 million.



PAOLO MALDINI.
Defender, 24. Arguably the best left-back in the world, has already won more than 40 caps for his country. Tall, strong in the tackle and always willing to push forward. Father Cesare played in the Milan team which won the European Cup in 1963. Current Italian international worth \$20 million.



DANIELE MASSARO.
Striker, 32. An unsung hero. Hard worker who combines well with Van Basten and has a reputation of coming off the bench to score key goals. Former Italian international worth \$5 million.



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DEMETRIO ALBERTINI.

Midfield, 21. Hard-working anchor-man. Already a fixture in the national team. Has learned much from playing alongside Frank Rijkaard. Italian international worth \$10 million.



FRANCESCO ANTONIOLI

Goalkeeper, 23. Suffered a bad knee injury and has been replaced on tour by 19 year old Carlo Cudicini whose father, Fabio, kept for Milan when it won the European Cup in 1969. Carlo is worth \$2 million.



ROBERTO DONADONI.

Midfield, 29. The curly-haired Donadoni can operate in either central midfield or on the wing. Great close control and a good passer of the ball. Current Italian international worth \$10 million.



FRANCO BARESI.

Defender, 33. Captain of the club and also his country. A shrewd and classy player, organises the Milan back four and its offside game. One of the world's best known defenders. Current Italian international worth \$12 million.



ZVONIMIR BOBAN.

Midfield, 24. Gifted Croat who has impressed in his rare appearances of Milan his season after returning to the club following a disappointing season on loan to Bari. Former Yugoslav international worth \$12 million.



ALESSANDRO COSTACURTA.

Defender, 27. Known as "Billy", a nickname gained as a tall, spindly youth who looked like he should be an NBA basketball player. Solid centre-half, who has recently lost his national team place. Former Italian international worth \$10 million.



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Filippo GALLI
Enzo GAMBARO
Slefano NAVA
Mauro TASSOTTI
Paolo MALDINI
Demetrio ALBERTINI
Zvonimir BOBAN
Fernando DE NAPOLI
Roberto DONADONI
Stefano ERANIO
Alberigo EVANI
Ruud GULLIT
Frank RIJKAARD
Dejan SAVICEVIC
Gianluigi LENTINI
Daniele MASSARO
Jean Pierre PAPIN
Aldo SERENA
Marco SIMONE
Marco VAN BASTEN
COACH: Fabio CAPELLO

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Middle row: Domenic Longo, Vlado Bozinoski, Paul Trimboli, Carl Veart, Aurelio Vidmar, Milan Blagojevic, Stan Lazaridis.
Front row: Jason Polak, Ernie Togni, Branko Milosevic, Mehmet Durakovic, Steve Zica, Paul Wade. INSET: Frank Farina.



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EDDIE THOMSON'S "DREAM TEAM"

by Michael Cockerill - Sydney Morning Herald

The "Dream Team" can finally start fantasising about a berth in the World Cup finals, with all indications suggesting Australia's finest-ever national team has the talent, and the experience, to go all the way to USA next year.

The star-studded Socceroos overcame their toughest physiological hurdle with the recent Oceania play-off success against the oldest nemesis, New Zealand. Victory over the two legs in Auckland and Melbourne was especially sweet for those survivors of the 1989 campaign, when our World Cup hopes were dashed by a fired-up Kiwi team at Mt. Smart Stadium.

This time around there was no repetition of the same mistakes, and a comfortable 4-0 scoreline on aggregate confirmed coach Eddie Thomson's wisdom is basing his side around the rich seam of foreign-based professionals. While these players may be uncomfortable with the "Dream Team" tag, the fact remains that on paper the Socceroos can now boast the strongest side in their history.

For the Oceania playoffs, Thomson nominated 10 expatriates in his 20-man squad. Of those, sweeper Ned Zelic (Borussia Dortmund), strikers Frank Farina (Strasbourg) and Graham Arnold (FC Liege), midfielder Aurelio Vidmar (KSV Waregem) and Robbie Slater (Lens), and goalkeeper Mark Bosnich (Aston Villa), are of true international quality. Slater, in particular, was a revelation while Zelic, despite being affected by hamstring problems, left little doubt that sooner rather than later he is going to develop into one of the finest liberos in the world.

A measure of the depth of Australian talent came in the fact that two European-based professionals Vlado Bozinoski (Ipswich Town) and Milan Blagojevic (Germinal Ekeren), could not force their way into the team against New Zealand, while a core of other expatriates notably Paul Okon (Club Brugge), David Mitchell (Swindon Town), Ernie Tapai (Stoke City), Lou Hristodoulou (Panathinaikos), and Jason Kearton (Everton) couldn't even make the squad. There is little doubt that, ultimately, the Socceroos will field a team comprising entirely of foreign-based players. And the achievements against NZ proved the merits of this approach.

Certainly the Socceroos will be better for having spent a fortnight together during the Oceania playoffs, and playing two tough games in between. Having never played together before the series, the Socceroos were always going to struggle for cohesion, and so it proved.

With those teething problems out of the way, the team should improve by another 20 or 30 percent when the World Cup campaign resumes late next month against Canada. Representatives of the Canadian team were in Auckland and Melbourne to run the rule over the Socceroos, and have reported back to coach Bonny Lenarduzzi that their next opponents will indeed be worthy adversaries.

For the playoffs against Canada, which kicks off in either Vancouver or Edmonton on July 31 before the return leg is held at the Sydney Football Stadium on August 15. Thomson is sweating on Okon regaining his fitness in time. Thomson sees the former youth international as the final piece of the jigsaw, the only player capable of assuming the playmaker's role with some distinction.

With Okon in the middle of his midfield, and with Arnold, Slater, Farina and Vidmar offering plenty of attacking power, the Soc-

ceroos should have no trouble scoring goals. Ironically it is defence, an area which has been the strength of the team for the past three years, where concerns are now being raised.

Against New Zealand the new-look pairing of Dominic Longo and Alex Tobin never really gelled, and Thomson in weighing up his options which include resurrecting the careers of Andrew Marth or



Andrew Bernal, or perhaps shifting the versatile Mehmet Durakovic into a marking position. Whatever transpires, the clear message is that the defence needs to tighten up if the Socceroos are to progress to the World Cup finals.

To prepare for the games against Canada, the Socceroos are likely to assemble in Europe midway through next month. With so many of his players based in Europe, Thomson agrees that the easiest way for him to get a hold of his expatriates is to have one or two warm-up games on the continent. English champions Manchester United and top German club Borussia Dortmund have been mentioned as possible opponents.

Certainly the Socceroos will need to prepare properly for the contest against the Canadians, who have made great strides in international football in recent years. Like Australia, Canada now boasts a number of European-based professionals, and at least five of these - Alex Bunbury (West Ham), Paul Peschisoldo (Birmingham City), Frank Yallop and Craig Forrest (Ipswich Town) and Randy Samuel (Fortuna Sitard) - are likely to line up for the first leg.

Having watched Canada in last month's decisive CONCACAF qualifier against Mexico, Thomson has a healthy respect for his next opponents. "Believe Me, they are a useful side and play a lot more creative football than people give them credit for," he said.

Fine-tuning his own team is now the priority, and these matches against AC Milan provide the perfect opportunity for some of the fringe candidates to stake a claim. The world's best club side could, arguably, be a semi-final contender at next year's World Cup - that is how strong the Italian champions are. In that context, the Socceroos will get a firm idea of what is required when they host AC Milan tonight and tomorrow night.

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Position: Midfielder
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"A" Internationals: 59
Born in England, Paul arrived in Australia as an 11-year-old. Played for several Victorian clubs before joining CCL club South Melbourne. He first appeared for Australia in 1986 against China and has since represented his country 80 times, making him the highest capped Australian player in this squad. Captain of the Coca-Cola Socceroos.



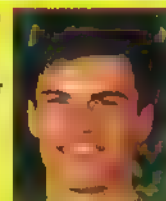
TOBIN, Alex
D.O.B: 5.4.66

Ht: 190cm Wt: 80kg
Position: Midfielder
Adelaide City
Total Appearances: 42
"A" Internationals: 29
Played junior soccer for Birkalla in South Australia then signed for Coca-Cola Soccer League club Adelaide City in 1984 when he was competing for a spot in the Young Socceroos side. Alex made his debut for the Coca-Cola Socceroos as a substitute against IFK Gottenburg in January 1986.



BLAGOJEVIC, Milan
D.O.B: 24.12.69

Ht: 183cm Wt: 80kg
Position: Defender/Midfielder
Germinal Ekeren (Belgium)
Total Appearances: 8
"A" Internationals: 5
A graduate from Apia Leichhardt, he first broke into international prominence being a squad member for the Coca-Cola Socceroos game against England in June 1991 and later represented his country as a substitute in the President's Cup matches in South Korea in June 1991.



ZABICA, Robert
D.O.B: 9.4.64

Ht: 185cm Wt: 92kg
Position: Goalkeeper
Adelaide City
Total Appearances: 29
"A" Internationals: 22
Played in Perth prior to joining Coca-Cola Soccer League club, Adelaide City in 1988. He represented South Australia in 1990 and 1991 and made his debut for the Coca-Cola Socceroos in February 1990 against Moscow Torpedo in Melbourne, where he kept a clean sheet with the Coca-Cola Socceroos winning 3-0.



POLAK, Jason
D.O.B: 9.1.68

Ht: 179cm Wt: 78kg
Position: Midfielder
Newcastle BHP Breakers
Total Appearances: 7
"A" Internationals: 5
Former Coca-Cola Young Socceroo who started in the World Youth Championships in Chile, 1987. Played with CCL club Sydney Olympic in 1988 and 1989 before moving overseas and eventually playing with Dutch 1st division club, De Graafschap. Returned to play with Newcastle for the 1992/93 season. First Socceroo cap was against Fiji in 1988.



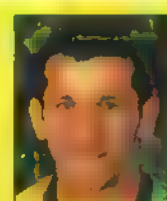
ARNOLD, Graham
D.O.B: 3.8.63

Ht: 184cm Wt: 87kg
Position: Striker
R.C. Liegeols
Total Appearances: 63
"A" Internationals: 38
Played with CCL club Sydney CSC before moving to Dutch 1st Division club Roda JC where he completed two seasons before moving to R.C. Liegeols. Made his Coca-Cola Socceroo debut against Red Star in 1985. Graham scored over 50 goals in 5 seasons with Sydney CSC. Has scored 27 goals for the Coca-Cola Socceroos in his 63 appearances.



IVANOVIC, Milan
D.O.B: 21.12.68

Ht: 187cm Wt: 80kg
Position: Sweeper
Adelaide City
Total Appearances: 20
"A" Internationals: 18
Played in the Yugoslav 1st Division with OFK Belgrade then transferred to Red Star Belgrade where he played for 4 years before moving to Australia to play with Coca-Cola Soccer League club Adelaide City for a record transfer fee of \$50,000. First represented the Coca-Cola Socceroos in January 1991 against Czechoslovakia in Melbourne.



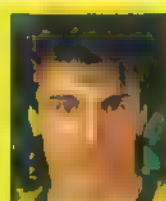
VAN BLERK, Jason
D.O.B: 16.3.68

Ht: 186cm Wt: 76kg
Position: Midfielder SC
Go Ahead Eagles (Holland)
Total Appearances: 13
"A" Internationals: 13
Progressed from NSW Under 14 representative to National level and represented the Coca-Cola Socceroos in their tour of Indonesia and the President's Cup in Korea. Jason made his first appearance for the Coca-Cola Socceroos in Jakarta against Indonesia B where he scored two goals in the 7-0 victory.



BOZINOSKI, Vlado
D.O.B: 30.3.64

Ht: 178cm Wt: 75kg
Position: Fullback/Midfielder
Ipswich Town (England)
Total Appearances: 11
"A" Internationals: 7
Plays for Ipswich Town in the English Premier League. Vlado's first appearance for the Coca-Cola Socceroos was as a substitute against the stylish Brazilian team in July, 1988. Scored a goal in the Coca-Cola Socceroos memorable 4-1 win over Argentina in the Bicentennial Gold Cup at the Sydney Football Stadium in 1988.



ZELIC, Ned
D.O.B: 4.7.71

Ht: 185cm Wt: 81kg
Position: Defender
Borussia Dortmund (Germany)
Total Appearances: 13
"A" Internationals: 8
A graduate of the AIS he has from the Australian Youth team to Captain of the Coca-Cola Olyroos. Many will remember Ned from his glorious goal against the Netherlands, which Australia qualified for the 1992 Olympics. Ned made his debut with the Coca-Cola Socceroos in February '91 when he came on as a substitute against Czechoslovakia.



VIDMAR, Aurelio
D.O.B: 3.2.67

Ht: 180cm Wt: 72kg
Position: Midfielder SV
Waregem (Belgium)
Total Appearances: 14
"A" Internationals: 8
Older brother of Tony Vidmar, Aurelio also played with CCL club Adelaide City before moving to Belgium to play with 1st Division Club Kortrijk. Has since signed for another Belgium Club, SV Waregem. Aurelio made his debut for the Coca-Cola Socceroos, celebrating his 21st Birthday, against Dynamo Zagreb on 3.2.88 in Melbourne.



SLATER, Robbie
D.O.B: 22.11.64

Ht: 179cm Wt: 82kg
Position: Striker
RC Lens (France)
Total Appearances: 13
"A" Internationals: 7
Made his debut in the Coca-Cola Soccer League at the age of 17 with St. George where he stayed for 4 years before moving to Sydney CSC in 1987. He then moved to French 1st Division club, RC Lens, where he has just completed his 2nd season. He made his debut as a Coca-Cola Socceroo against Glasgow Rangers in 1984.





COCA - COLA SOCCEROOS

FARINA, Frank
D.O.B: 5.9.64

Ht: 178cm Wt: 78kg
Position: Striker R C
Strasbourg (France)
Total Appearances: 62
"A" Internationals: 32
A graduate from the AIS, Frank started with Canberra Arrows before moving to Sydney City in 1984 then to CCSI club Marconi in 1987. In 1988 he was signed by Belgian 1st Division giants, Club Brugge, and sold to Italian 1st Division side, Bari the following season. Frank's debut for the Coca-Cola Socceroos was when he came on as a substitute against Nottingham Forest in May



DURAKOVIC, Mehmet
D.O.B: 13.10.65

Ht: 178cm Wt: 72kg
Position: Defender
South Melbourne
Total Appearances: 32
"A" Internationals: 23
Moved from Melbourne J U S T to CCSI Club South Melbourne, in 1989. Made his debut as a substitute for the Coca-Cola Socceroos against Moscow Torpedo in February 1990. Played against England in 1991 and in four (4) President's Cup matches in Korea in 1991. Has been a regular in Eddie Thomson's Coca-Cola Socceroo line up since



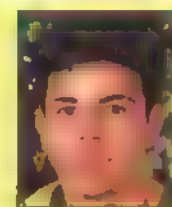
15: VEART, Carl
D.O.B: 21.5.70

Ht: 184cm Wt: 77kg
Position: Striker
Adelaide City
Total Appearances: 6
"A" Internationals: 6
First played senior soccer for South Australian side Salisbury United in 1986. Played both Under 19's and seniors with South Australia before his selection with the Coca-Cola Olyroos for Barcelona. Scored a goal on his debut with the Coca-Cola Socceroos in a World Cup qualifier against the Solomon Islands in September 1992.



CORICA, Steve
D.O.B: 24.3.73

Ht: 177cm Wt: 74kg
Position: Striker,
Marconi-Fairfield
Total Appearances: 2
"A" Internationals: 2
Steve is an exciting young Coca-Cola Socceroo star. Originally from Ipswich in Far North Queensland and Steve played for Queensland representative squads and then graduated to the Australian Schoolboys, but Coca-Cola Joys, the Coca-Cola Young Socceroos, the Coca-Cola Olyroos and now the Coca-Cola Socceroos. The only player to have achieved this honour.



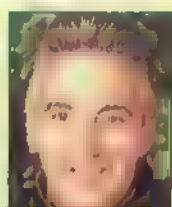
LONGO, Domenic
D.O.B: 23.8.70

Ht: 184cm Wt: 84kg
Position: Defender
Cercle Brugge (Belgium)
Total Appearances: 2
"A" Internationals: -
Originally from Tasmania, Dominic won a scholarship to the AIS. He won selection to the Australian Coca-Cola Joys, Coca-Cola Young Socceroos and then the Coca-Cola Olyroos. His career was temporarily halted after a knee operation in 1989. Dominic made his debut for the Coca-Cola Socceroos in their European tour playing against FC Twente in November 1992.



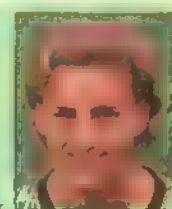
EDDIE THOMSON
AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL COACH

D.O.B: 25/2/1947
Playing Career: Scottish Premier Division: Heart of Midlothian - 7 years
Aberdeen - 5 years
North American Soccer League: San Antonio Thunder - 1 year
Australia: Sydney City - 3 years
Scottish Under 23 International
Coaching Career
Sydney City - Manager Coach - 7 years
Sydney Olympic - Manager Coach - 3 years
Australian Staff Coach
Scottish FA - Full Badge Holder
FIFA Coach
National Director of Coaching - 1 year
Coaching Honours - Club
Sydney City - won every honour in NSL
Australian Coach of Year - 1981, 1984, 1985
Sydney Olympic - Grand Finalists and NSL Cup Finalists - 1989
Coaching Honours - International
Assistant National Coach - 5 years
National Coach - 1990



TRIMBOLI, Paul
D.O.B: 25.2.69

Ht: 177cm Wt: 85kg
Position: Striker
South Melbourne
Total Appearances: 14
"A" Internationals: 9
A scholarship holder at the Australian Institute of Sport, Paul represented the Coca-Cola Joys as well as the Coca-Cola Young Socceroos. Made his debut with the Coca-Cola Socceroos in 1988, against Fiji. First played in the Coca-Cola Soccer League with Sunshine George Cross before joining his current club South Melbourne.



LAZARIDIS, Stan
D.O.B: 15.8.72

Ht: 180cm Wt: 75kg
Position: Defender
West Adelaide
Total Appearances: 2
"A" Internationals: 2
Stan, who is originally from Perth, is playing for the Perth Italia club and studying to be a Physical Education teacher. He recently moved to West Adelaide after starring for the Western Australian state team and has had a meteoric rise to Coca-Cola Socceroo level.



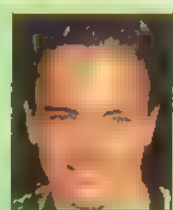
MILOSEVIC, Branko
D.O.B: 21.8.64

Ht: 177cm Wt: 85kg
Position: Midfield
Sydney Olympic
Total Appearances: 11
"A" Internationals: 8
Started as a junior with Olimpia Osijek in the Croatian 2nd Division. Moved to Germany to play for them in the Bundesliga 2nd Division in 85/86, scoring 10 goals as an attacking midfielder. Came to Australia in 1987 and played for CCSI club Melbourne CSC. Branko made his first Coca-Cola Socceroo appearance as a substitute in 1990 against South Korea.



BOSNICH, Mark
D.O.B: 13.1.72

Ht: 183cm Wt: 85kg
Position: Goalkeeper
Aston Villa (England)
Total Appearances: 2
"A" Internationals: -
Won the Mastercard Award for his performance in the 1991 World Youth Championships in Portugal. Originally played with Sydney CSC. Served an apprenticeship with Manchester United before signing with Aston Villa in English Premier League. Member of the Coca-Cola Olympic team, Bosnich was promoted to the Coca-Cola Socceroos. Made debut as a substitute against Moscow Torpedo in January, 1990.



LES SCHEINFLUG
AUSTRALIAN YOUTH (U/20) COACH

D.O.B: 1/10/1938
Playing Career
Sydney FC Prague, 1957-1968
Marconi Fairfield, 1969-1970 (Player-Coach)
Coaching Career
Assistant National Coach - World Cup Finals 1974
Assistant National Coach - 1979-81
National Coach - 1981-1984
Youth Team Coach - 1981-1983, 1985-1989
Assistant National Coach - 1990
Coaching Honours - International
World Youth Championships Quarter Finalists - Australia 1981
Finals Series - Mexico 1983
Finals Series - Chile 1987
Qualification Series Play-offs v Syria, Qatar and New Zealand 1989
Quarter Finalists - U/17 Joys FIFA/JVC World Cup - Italy 1991
Quarter Finalists - World Youth Championships - Australia 1993
Oceania Winners - Qualifications for the FIFA/JVC World Cup - Japan 1993



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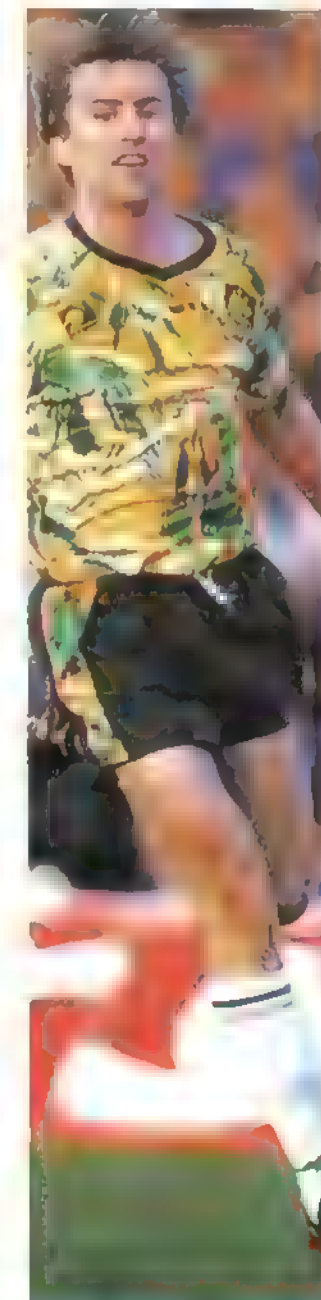


From Les Murray

Two opponents for the Socceroos just ten days apart. But it may as well be ten light years. Such is the difference between New Zealand, whom the Aussies met in those World Cup qualifiers, and the regal AC Milan. With the most neighbourly respect to our fiends across the water, the humility of the all Whites simply does not compare with the arrogant splendour of the Rossoneri. Not in the type of playing strength they represent and not more poignantly, in the way they play. New Zealand continues to be a soccer backwater, a Third World nation in the most literal sense. So they still give us a hard time every time we play them. But only through guts, sweat, fire and brimstone. There is no style about them, no guile, no element of surprise, no fantasy. In that most cruel of words, no class. Of course they would be most peeved to read this. And would start to roll their sleeves even now to get us next time. To grind us into the dirt, as they have often before and probably will again. To prove condescending, arrogant Aussies like me wrong. But it would prove nothing of the sort. I'm not talking about who beats whom. I'm not talking about winning at all. I'm talking about winning, or at least playing, with style. For finally, at least in this regard, we are beginning to leave the Kiwis behind. There was a time when the Australians were also guilty, as guilty as the New Zealanders, of being

buffoons rather than craftsmen. Of relying only on guts and thump to beat others. We, too, played that way and, according to some, still have some ways to go before we can have pretensions to being able to lay on the pretty stuff. But I think times are changing and have been changing for some time. It has, in fact, been some years now since Australian soccer veered into new directions, culminating in what we saw in the second game against New Zealand earlier this month. The Australians struggled at times to maintain concentration and there were periods when the Kiwis seemed to threaten. But in terms of style, the two teams were not on the same ball park. That was natural, given that almost a team worth of the Aussies were from elite, professional homes in Europe. But the point is that it was Australia that produced them. It was here, in this country, that Ned Zelic grew up and was found to be good enough to play in Dortmund and, if rumours are right, even Turin or Rome. Much has happened in Australian soccer in the last decade or two, which did not happen in New Zealand, to create the climate that produces such players and a difference football emphasis. Among them have been the national league, its money and its profile; the emergence of an adult generation of Australian players spawned by participants of the 50's and 60's migrant boom; and the vast exposure to top quality and the most varied brands of football provided by SBS television. Three years ago Paul Okon, the elegant Aussie libero now playing for Club Bruges in Belgium, named Roberto Baggio of Juventus as his source of inspiration, the player he would most like to emulate. I sympathise with young Kiwi players of Okon's generation for they would have scarcely have heard of Roberto Baggio much less seen him play. Australian audiences, and our

starry eyed kids, have seen all there has been to see in international football over the past 13 years, since the inception of SBS. Diego Maradona at 19, Zico and Plantini in their prime,



Socceroo captain Paul Wade

Socrates and Falcao playing for their clubs, the rise of Butragueno, Futre and Vialli, the surge of the Dutch masters, Gullit, Rijkaard, Van Basten, Koeman and now Bergkamp. There is footage galore in the SBS archives showing Raud

Gullit as a flying young right winger, with an Afro hairdo playing for Feyenoord Rotterdam. And we've seen all the great teams of that era: Flamengo, Juventus, Liverpool (in European conquest), Porto, Napoli, Barcelona, Sao Paulo, Marseille and, of course, the great AC Milan. We've seen, and our coaches have seen, a myriad of styles, tactics, playing formations, playing attitudes and followed, through the SBS microcosm, the evolution of the game. SBS' other contribution to football - and that's what the editor asked me to outline here - has been the profile it gives to the sport. And frankly how many people watched it, what the ratings showed, had nothing whatever to do with it. The SBS soccer profile - always at prime time, live whenever possible, leading its sport reports with it, the number of hours dedicated to it etc - has given the sport the kind of credibility it deserves as the world game but which, in Australia's curious sporting culture, it never had before. The point is that, even when a soccer program rates low on SBS, all of the soccer population watches it. And that high profile translates into a sweeping self confidence for those involved in the game, brushing away the inferiority complexes the game suffers from when relegated below rugby and cricket on other networks. In short, SBS has been and remains soccer's guardian, a wall of protection against the forces of resistance and those who would prefer not have it infiltrate Australian culture. The AC Milan we are about to see tonight represents the apex of what makes football the world's most glamorous and important sport. Australian fans have been lucky enough to have seen Milan often enough in the past to have the very sport influenced by its style, its tactical approach and the class of its players.



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The Soccerblues take on Czechoslovakia in their first match, then Korea "B" and Romania.

Our team coached by Rale Rasic (pictured) is - Marshall Soper (Captain), Aytek Genc, Andy Harper, Paul Souris, Brad Maloney, Frank Gigliotti, Zlatko Arambasic, Gerry Gomez, Robert Wheatley, Mick Smith, Damon Langan, Steven Berry, Matthew Bingley, Peter Gunning, Brett Hughes, David Seal, Wayne Pierce and John Gibson.

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From Glenorchy to Milan

by Steve Darby ASF National Development Officer

SBS may well have its largest audience ever in Tasmania tonight, when Dominic "the Animal" Longo steps out to mark either Papin, Van Basten or Massaro at the Sydney Football Stadium. The young lad born in Hobart, of Italian parents is the classic case of a kid who shouldn't have made it.

Not because he hasn't got the ability, but because it's a lot easier to make it in Aussie Soccer if you are from a capital city. The marvellous thing is that Dominic is now a great role model for all the "country" kids in Australia to show that if you have ability and the added determination and the willingness to learn, you can overcome the odds.

He doesn't command the media profile of a Bosa (Bosnich) or a Ned (Zelic) but his story is worth telling and if it helps one other kid make it, then certainly Dominic will be delighted.

Dominic started to play his soccer at Dominic College (now probably named after him) in Glenorchy, Tasmania. He shared a class with Paul Hudson now starring for Hawthorn in the AFL and they were both the two star athletes of the school. This in Tasmania meant that the priests and brothers were earmarking Dominic for a full forward position in the school Aussie Rules team. His family support, particularly of his dad, Luch (a star player in the sixties) ensured that he overcame the pressure and stuck to his soccer career.

He joined the Hobart Juventus Soccer Club as a teenager and made his State League debut at the ripe age of 14 when he was in grade eight! Not a bad start, and soon he was selected in the State Junior Team for Tasmania. Playing for Tasmania in a National Talent Identification Program can be daunting. Particularly if you are a defender, though usually all eleven players fulfil that role when playing against NSW or Victoria. Dominic's size and his leadership qualities stood out and he was spotted by Ron Smith at the Institute of Sport and offered a Scholarship. Usually at the AIS, players develop their physical qualities and Dominic was no exception. The planned diet and extensive weights gave him the muscular development that is so vital to his game. However the Institute also greatly improved his tactical and technical ability. Ron Smith coach of the AIS said, "Dom didn't have the greatest technique with the ball, but he was a superb tackler. We spent many hours working with him and Steve Horvat and Shaun Murphy on playing out from the back. It was very difficult at first for him, and

he got punished a few times, but his tremendous character ensured that he stuck with the long term goals."

Dominic started his International career at the AIS, by playing for the Joeys in 1987 in Canada. Bruce Stowell the coach at the time said that Dominic was like a rock at the centre of his defence and started to show great leadership qualities. The preparation then was not as good as today and Dominic held together a defence literally getting to know each other game by game.

He progressed to Les Scheinflug's 1989 Youth Squad and then if it wasn't enough having clawed his way from Tasmania, he then "did a cruciate", the injury which ruins so many careers. The crazy thing was that it wasn't in one of his famous bone crushing tackles but as Dom said himself, a sniper got him as he turned and his leg just gave away. Dominic followed Les to Blacktown to make his CCSL debut and then the bad luck hit him again ... his other cruciate ligament went. Les Scheinflug said, "How can any player be so unlucky? But what more can you say about a player who comes back from two knee operations of this nature. He is a real professional."

A move to Newcastle after his recovery ensured that Dominic started to learn his profession amongst the men of the CCSL and all the time National Coach Eddie Thomson was keeping an eye on his progress. The A.S.F. has a Planned Talent Identification and National Teams Program and once a player enters the system at the Joeys his progression is consistently monitored. Eddie chose Dominic for the Olyroos and millions of people around the world saw the calibre of his defending. Amongst those million was a Belgium Club and soon Dominic was swapping part time football in Newcastle for the life of a full timer in Brugge.

Thomson said when he called him up to the National Squad, that "Every team has to have a balance between ball players and ball winners and Dominic certainly wins the ball. I would love to have seen him play against Kosmina ... it certainly wouldn't have gone the distance but it would have filled the ground."

So the quiet young Tasmanian marking Papin tonight has overcome geography, terrible injuries and been one of the three players to play for all four National Teams (Bosnich and Corica being the others). He is the classic role model for young kids a real gentleman off the pitch who really has made it the hard way. ... Maybe Papin will wish that Longo was playing full forward in the AFL ... who knows what the limit is ... he's won every battle so far.



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